

REMARKS

Claims 1-143 are pending in the above-identified patent application. The Examiner variously rejected claims 1-24 and objected to claim 2. The Examiner, however, did not consider claims 25-143 which were added in a Supplemental Amendment mailed on February 26, 2002.

Applicants have canceled claims 1-24 without prejudice and will pursue claims 1-24 in a continuation application. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejections to claims 1-24 and objection to claim 2 should be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully request consideration of claims 25-143 by the Examiner in the next communication.

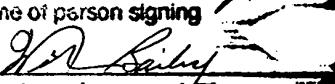
In view of the foregoing, claims 25-143 are in condition for allowance. Consideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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